

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are amended and claims 3 and 10 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 3 and 10 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 3. Also, claim 2 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 10. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 6 and 7 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c). The amendment to claims 6 and 7 overcome the objection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,255,167 to Wetzl. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 3, thus overcoming the rejection. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 4 and 6, which depend from claim 1, are allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 5, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wetzel taken together with U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0010211 to Yu. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claim 2 is amended to include the allowable feature of claim 10, thus overcoming the rejection. Accordingly, claim 2 and claims 5, 7, and 9, which depend from claim 2, are allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wetzel. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 depends from allowable claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 11, 2006

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